are required to select appropriate site, firm up the proposals and get these appraised from SIDBI for techno-economic viability. Two IID Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh, one at Nandantola in District Satna and the other at Bandol in District Seoni. Central grant of Rs. 89.00 lakhs has already been released for the IID Centre at Nadantola in District Satna.

(c) and (d) Under the Scheme the State Govenrment is required to appoint the implementing agency having a good track record and sound financial position. The financial position of Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam, Jablapur, the proposed implementing agency in respect of IID Centre at Bandol was not found satisfactory. The agency is in default to Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and has accumulated losses. SIDBI is hence not willing to sanction loan. The State Government was given the option to invest its own funds in lieu of SIDBI loan or to change the implementing agency. The State Government has expressed inability to invest its own funds, and very recently intimated that they have abandoned the implementation of IID Centre at Bandol, District Seoni.

Export to Rupee Payment areas

1849. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been India's exports to rupee payment areas;

(b) whether there has been any improvement since 1991;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote exports to these regions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Export of Indian goods against rupee payment is presently taking place to Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Nepal and Bhutan. Exports under rupee paymesnt route to Russia and Czech and Slovak Republics are taking place as repayment of outstanding rupee debts. In the case of exports to Nepal and Bhutan realisation of exports proceeds is allowed in Indian Rupees. The figures for Indian exports to these countries for the year 1991-92 and 1998-99 are given below. The export figures include exports denominated in Indian rupees and freely convertible currencies. For the year 1991-92 separate figures for Russia, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic are not available with the DGCI&S and the figures provided are for

the commonwealth of Independent States & Czechoslovakia respectively.

Year	Common wealth of Independents states	Czechoslovakia	Nepal	Bhutan
1991-92	4042.78	35.98	196.55	2.96

Year	Russia	Czech Republic	Slolvak Republic	Nepal	Bhutan
1998-99	3038.15	144.17	28.16	628.32	40.26

(Exports in rupees crores)
(Source: DGCI&S)

(d) Various steps have been taken by Government of India to increase exports which include:

— Bilateral discussions at the highest level including Joint Commission Meetings, bilateral trade meetings etc.

— Promotion of direct business contact through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Crisis in Marble Stone Industry of Makrana

†1850. SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the marble-stone industry of Makrana is in a great crisis now-a-days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a heavy decline in its production due to entering of water in mines;

(c) whether it is correct that the condition of roads of this area is also very poor; and

(d) if so, whether Government will make any arrangement to save the livelihood of twenty lakh people engaged in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Sir, at present, out of 875 registered mining units in Makrana, 61 are closed due to various financial and legal reasons. Deep mining, water logging during rainy season and bad condition of roads have affected the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.